



**Meeting Minutes for the Environmental Enhancement Commission
Tuesday, November 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Tinley Park Village Hall – Kallsen Center
16250 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477**

ROLL CALL

Present and responding to roll call were the following:

Members: Michelle Ayala
Adam James
Frank Markowicz
Jeff Mech
Kerri Roiniotis

Absent: Chairman Antonio Halek
Lucas Engel
Beth Mikula
Paul Mikula
Barbara Moore
Village Liaison Steve Tilton
Village Trustee Brian Younker

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Environmental Enhancement Commission was called to order by Jeff Mech at 7:03 p.m. in the Fulton Conference Room. Motion to open the meeting made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Frank Markowicz. Motion to approve the Agenda made by Adam James, seconded by Kerri Roiniotis. Motion to approve the October 18, 2016 minutes made by Michelle Ayala, seconded by Kerri Roiniotis. Approved by voice vote.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports

No reports due to Antonio Halek's absence.

New Business:

Spring Clean-up

Jeff Mech asked everyone to begin thinking about the Spring Clean-up which will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd. A nice article was published in *The Exchange* to help advertise the event, the EEC and recycling tips. We need to get the word out to volunteer groups well in advance since this year the event falls on Earth Day. There was also an article on the village using LED street lighting which would save a lot of money and resources and that is just in one part of town. Jeff wants to send an email to the mayor thanking him for having the village use LED street lights.

Michelle Ayala stated EEC should have tables at the luncheon showing others how and what to recycle, and have a wattage meter with various light bulbs. She also stated that she will probably be moving soon and asked who would take over for the clean-up contact list and the ordering of patches and rockers when needed. It was suggested that Beth Mikula take over as she handled this in the past.

Holiday Party

Jeff Mech reminded everyone to RSVP for the holiday party on December 14th.

New Commissioners/Resigning Commissioners

At last month's meeting, Antonio Halek stated he received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Lucas Engel. Michelle Ayala asked if anyone has received a copy of the letter yet.

The Clerk's office took a phone call from a resident inquiring about the Environmental Commission and possibly becoming a commissioner.

Jeff Mech thought it would be a great idea to have new members. He also stated that membership has once again been lagging and we need to recruit new members especially with the new resignation.

Old/Ongoing Business:

Idle Free

Jeff Mech stated that all signs were installed at District 140 schools. Now trying to get more exposure.

Kerri Roiniotis stated that the pickup policy is supposed to change with not having the car running but now you have 12 cars in the lot picking up at a time and the idea is to keep the line moving, which has a lot of kids running around through the cars.

Jeff Mech stated that he did speak with the superintendent who asked him to put together a paragraph for the virtual backpack. The superintendent had him change the statement a little bit reflecting that it came from the EEC and not District 140.

Carbon Fee and Dividend

Jeff Mech stated the environmental impact is enormous. Now the federal carbon fee and dividend is 100% with Brian Younker now. Had a 74% vote from Orland Township. The EEC voted on it and now it goes before the board. Our liaison will offer that and he has to want it and like it.

Frank Markowitz stated that they had 75% support for the resolution.

Jeff Mech stated that he and Frank were able to get a resolution on the Orland Township ballot. Everyone who lives in Orland Township had the opportunity to vote on carbon fee and dividend. Came back overwhelming, 74% voted yes. That is a landslide. Especially significant because Orland Township is known to be split right down the middle for Republicans and Democrats. Very happy with the results.

Good of the Order

Jeff Mech stated he thought the EEC should meet in December and he will definitely be present if there is a meeting.

Receive Comments from the Public

Two guests arrived to voice their concerns to the Environmental Commission. Mr. and Mrs. Kamrowski attended a village board meeting right after they closed the 183rd recycling facility which they have been using for 16 years. They also saw an article in *The Junction* which was very well written by a resident complaining about the closure. Jim Kamrowski has been recycling since the 1960's and is a firm believer in recycling. The only facility they were directed to by Brian Younker was the one on Wolf Road in Orland Park. Those hours are Monday through Friday and the average working person cannot get there during those hours. He has now been stockpiling items in his garage. Biggest problem is that they live in a townhome and keeps trying to push recycling in the complex. In townhomes they do not have the same capabilities for recycling as a regular homeowner. The recycling center at 183rd was under surveillance but it got out of control over there. Would love to see the village implement something again. The village board had told him they were going to come up with something to resolve this problem. That was over two months ago and nothing has been done yet. Now he was directed to the EEC. He is trying to find some way to recycle. He is a firm believer of recycling his whole life and would like to see it come back to Tinley Park. Instead of coming up with a solution to some of the "bad eggs" who ruined the recycling at 183rd, the village decided to just shut it down. A lot of people are for recycling but don't want to put their face forward.

Mrs. Kamrowski stated that the Wolf Road recycling facility is very unaccommodating. They are not open on Saturdays or evenings and the center is behind a locked gate. The other option was to go to NuWay in Homewood which is not very convenient either.

Adam James stated this is great information and we have been discussing this very issue of recycling at townhome associations. We realize that condos and townhomes will not have recycling.

Jim Kamrowski explained that the townhome declaration is written stating that you have to have a majority of the unit owners to agree to have recycling. The extra fee amounted to \$3.00 per month for recycling added on. Most residents voted no and it did not get passed.

Jim Kamrowski explained he is for Mother Earth and very passionate about it. Every Sunday he walks around his complex and picks up garbage on the streets.

Michelle Ayala stated that we have discussed this very issue but we need to come up with something to bring before the board.

Jeff Mech feels that condo owners and townhome owners are being discriminated against because they have no way to recycle. Wants to propose to the village board to have it mandatory for every condo and townhome in Tinley Park to have recycling. This will take a while to implement but this is the long-term fix. Short-term issue is where to bring the recycling in the meantime.

Michelle Ayala inquired if they are required to have a recycling bin at condos and townhomes.

Adam James stated that every homeowner is charged a fee that includes the service of recycling within the garbage contract. They are getting a certain bulk rate per home. Each association has their own contract and suspects that townhomes would be more due to the smaller number of units they are servicing. The association has to choose the collector.

Jeff Mech asked if Jim Kamrowski knows of any other townhomes or condo associations that currently does recycle.

Jim Kamrowski said no to both those questions and he has talked to numerous presidents, associations and management companies.

Michelle Ayala stated that at her condo association they are recycling for their complex but she is not sure if the others have recycling. Her association does the recycling within the garbage corrals.

Jim Kamrowski stated that getting his condo association to do anything for recycling would be very, very difficult. He has tried in the past when he was on the board at Timbers on the Lake at 175th and 80th Avenue, Pond J is the retention pond.

Jeff Mech stated that he lived in a condo across from Grissom School. They did not have recycling. When he wrote a letter to the mayor the mayor told him he had to speak with his association.

Frank Markowitz did not think that the association had the ability to choose their provider.

Adam James stated that the EEC needs to find out these details.

Jeff Mech stated that the EEC will work harder to get all townhomes and condos to recycle.

Michelle Ayala feels that there has to be something implemented. Contact NuWay and see why it is the way that it is and push it with the village and NuWay. Need to get someone within reasonable hours to deal with the recycling.

Jeff Mech stated that Brian Younker is our liaison and he would be the contact person for the short-term but the long-term is another issue. Jim Kamrowski did not think Brian Younker or the village board was very accommodating.

Michelle Ayala stated that maybe the Kamrowskis need to get a petition going at a different association.

Jim Kamrowski suggested an article in the *Tinley Park Junction* to see what the public thinks about recycling and where they should go to recycling. Strength in numbers, we are not the only ones that want recycling. He would be more than willing to help.

Jeff Mech stated that the priority of the EEC is to find out what the options are for the condo and townhome associations.

Adam James stated that would be a quick call to NuWay and they can answer that for us.

Jeff Mech remembered hearing \$3.00 a month additional for the recycling.

Adam James stated we need solid facts when we go to the board.

Jeff Mech will reach out to Megan at NuWay to get answers to the recycling questions and contracts.

Adam James stated that this way we can state that we know the facts and we had a concerned resident come into our meeting with his concerns. Jeff Mech stated that we need to find out which association in Tinley Park is using recycling and can you give us a sample of what they are paying and what the contract looks like. So many things are adding up – recycling area closing, now people coming in asking about it.

Michelle Ayala will confirm who handles the garbage contract at her association.

Discover Tinley

Michelle Ayala stated that Frank Markowicz's job is to monitor the sale papers for the seed packets to give out at Discover Tinley. Everything from prior years will stay the same but add the wattage machine.

Michelle Ayala made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Adam James. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

/dmp